



# First Presbyterian Church

## EPISTLE

**Our Mission: Connecting with God and sharing the Good News  
of Jesus Christ with the community.**

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

543 East Freeman St.  
Duncanville, TX 75116  
(972) 298-3043  
fax: (972) 298-5312  
info@fpcd.org  
www.fpcd.org

### **CHURCH STAFF:**

**Rev. Dr. Ginger Hertenstein,**  
Pastor

**Jennifer Johnson**  
Administrative Asst

**Ross Shipman**  
Youth Director

**Nyadia Thorpe,**  
Choir Director

**Dameron Growe**  
**Brittany Haywood**  
Accompanists

**Sean Russell,**  
Sound Room Technician

**Ana Ortiz**  
**Liliana Ortiz**  
Nursery

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### ***From your Session***

As we enter November and are nearing the end of the year, I think we should reflect on 2019, our declared year of prayer. Personally, I've had plenty of opportunity to put prayer into practice. I'd say honestly the first half of the year was pretty positive prayer. I was feeling very powerful and life felt so pleasant. We (the Session) were meeting weekly, planning and working on fostering prayer in our congregation and neighborhood. We were able to (with tremendous help) create and hand out booklets about our prayer initiative and design and launch a website where the city could be united through prayer, no matter the denomination or walk of faith they were on - all are welcome!

This prayer initiative became more than just project. It shifted something in the way I thought of prayer. I at some point became my own prayer project. This prayer initiative, intended for those around me, began initiating intentional prayer in my life. This new flame was ignited, an excitement that I can't really describe. I felt like some prayer superhero and perhaps that's what part of the project was for, to reeducate me on what prayer truly is. I was suddenly running up to the front line with my helmet half on and sword a little too heavy to carry to rush off as a prayer warrior. The reality was that I still had some experience to gain.

Early on in the year, in the spring-time, my family was given some news. Our cousins, that we are very

close with and are still very young, had just learned that their father was very ill - the big C. We were all pretty shocked. He was so young, and this came so suddenly. Where did it come from, and why did it think it could just invade our lives this way?! I was surprised, but not worried. I was confident we were just going to pray it away.

As the weeks went by and then months of non-end prayer and then opposite results, I began to fear that my prayers were not aligning with God's will, and then my prayers began to change. From rejection to acceptance, and yet in both for strength and healing. Then as summer began, we got *the news*. Again, I was shocked, I was in disbelief. How could this be the result? I knew we had been praying hard and faithfully. This could not be the response! And yet, it was.

I was hurt and angry. This was not fair! They had already gone through so much and now this! How could this be right? Why would this even be happening? Why hadn't my prayers "worked"? Was I not as good at praying as I believed I was?

\*Spoiler alert\* I do learn that prayer is not a direct line to God to grant my requests. It's not like I didn't already know that but I guess sometimes I forget what prayer is. Even though prayer has the power to connect us with God given miracles, prayer is not divine miracle shopping.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## *The Epistle 2*

(From Your Session - continued from Front Page)

Living through that experience, was many things, and one thing that it was, was a confidence shaker. How could I pray again for others? They had counted on me.

Fast forward a couple months to some more tragic family news. Our 8-year-old cousin has been diagnosed with a brain tumor. How ever would we overcome this? I remember talking to my sister and saying, " I feel so bad there is nothing I could say or do to help them through this." (I'm about to brag on my sister right now.) She said, "You can offer them prayer." That's all she said! And it hit me like a ton of bricks! How could I forget the value of prayer? The power of prayer? The gift of prayer?

Her response was so simple and yet so mighty! Let us celebrate prayer. It is real and true, for everyone and anyone, anywhere and everywhere. Prayer is uplifting and a source of strength, even if the prayer is a silent cry from the heart. Prayer connects us to our Creator - our God who is bigger than our problems. I encourage you to set aside time to meet with God. If you need some motivation, watch *Breakthrough*, a 2019 film based on a true story that is sure to initiate a prayer response in you.

*Vanessa*



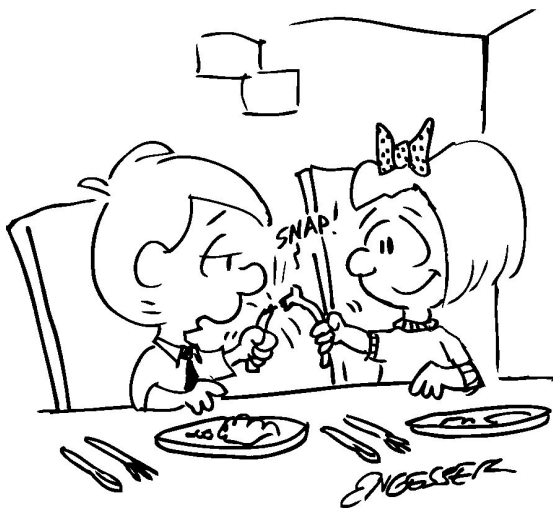
Then you will call on me and  
come and pray to me, and  
**I will listen to you.**

Jeremiah 29:12, NIV

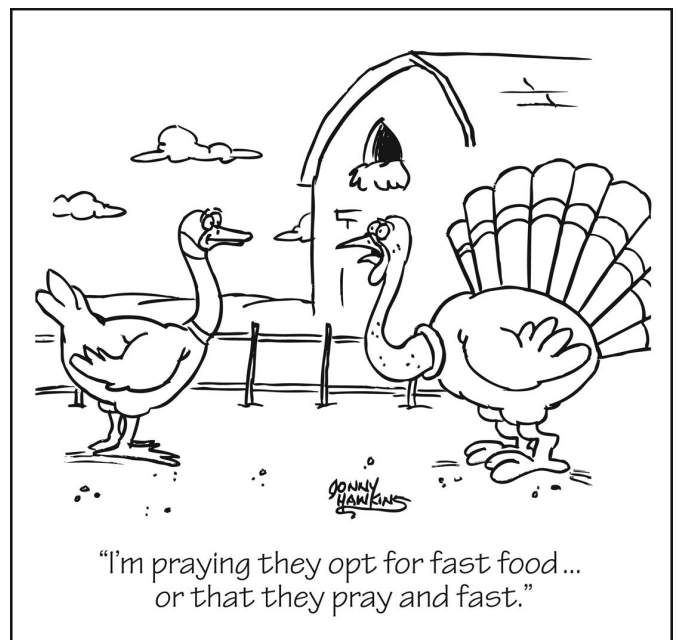


## Women's Bible Study

The ladies of the Sarah and Agape Bible Study Circles will gather in November for a time of study, fellowship and prayer. Each will be reading **Lesson 3** from "**Love Carved in Stone... a Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments**" by Eugenia Anne Gamble. The Sarah Circle will hold their meeting on **Tuesday evening, November 12th, at 7:00 pm** at the home of Jocelyn Bolles. The Agape Circle will meet on **Wednesday afternoon, November 13th, at 1:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall of the church. If you'd like to join them or have any questions, please call Joan Brown (972.742.7997) about the evening group or Connie Steger (972.741.7932) about the afternoon group.



"Who needs a silly wishbone anyway?  
I've got prayer."



"I'm praying they opt for fast food ...  
or that they pray and fast."



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div> <div>Oct 2019</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div> <div>Dec 2019</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>					S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					1	2
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<b>10</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  7 PM Sarah Circle	<b>13</b> 1 PM Agape Circle 5:30 PM Youth Worship Arts 6:30 PM Fearless Youth Group 7:15 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b>  6:30 PM Think Tank Meeting	<b>15</b>  Newsletter Articles Due!	<b>16</b> 6 PM Thanksgiving Dinner																																																																																				
<b>17</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10 AM Finance 4 PM Parking Lot Ministry 6 PM Youth Event 7:15 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b>  6:30 PM Session Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>																																																																																				
<b>24</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service	<b>25</b> <div> <div>The Sandwich Project</div> <div>Bring your Sandwiches for the Homeless</div> </div>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> (Office Closed)	<b>28</b>  Happy Thanksgiving! (Office Closed)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>																																																																																				



## **Worship Volunteer Schedule November 2019**

<b>November 3</b>	<b>Greeters</b> <b>Ushers</b> <b>Tellers</b> <b>Nursery</b> <b>End of Service Ministry</b>	<b>Leo Skinner &amp; Billie Cowand</b> <b>Jack Pegues, Darrell Ingram</b> <b>Jocelyn Bolles &amp; Margaret Lewis</b> <b>Sharon Ingram</b> <b>Vanessa Cordova &amp;</b> <b>Nancy Bergman</b>
	<b>Communion Servers</b>	<b>Jaime Cordova, Sandy Gaskins,</b> <b>Paul Griffith, Margaret Lewis, Dick</b> <b>Bergman</b>
	<b>Communion Preparer</b>	<b>Anna Murphy</b>
<b>November 10</b>	<b>Greeters</b> <b>Ushers</b>	<b>Candice Morris &amp; Gary Morris</b> <b>Eugene Jimmerson, Irving Kezar,</b> <b>Sean Russell</b>
	<b>Tellers</b> <b>Nursery Volunteer</b> <b>End of Service Ministry</b>	<b>Joan Brown &amp; Teresa Reed</b> <b>Jocelyn Bolles</b> <b>Marna Bayless &amp; Connie Steger</b>
<b>November 17</b>	<b>Greeters</b> <b>Ushers</b> <b>Tellers</b> <b>Nursery Volunteer</b> <b>End of Service Ministry</b>	<b>Connie Steger &amp; Joan Brown</b> <b>Dub Guthrie, Paul Griffith</b> <b>Lori Glover &amp; Jaime Cordova</b> <b>Doris Metzger</b> <b>Jeff Thorpe &amp; Joan Brown</b>
<b>November 24</b>	<b>Greeters</b> <b>Ushers</b> <b>Tellers</b> <b>Nursery Volunteer</b> <b>End of Service Ministry</b>	<b>Youth</b> <b>Youth</b> <b>Brenda Everett &amp; Linda Simons</b> <b>Sharon Ingram</b> <b>Jocelyn Bolles &amp; Brenda Everett</b>

## November Birthdays

If we've missed your birthday and you would like us to include it in this "birthday" section of the newsletter, please contact us at (972) 298-3043 or [info@fpcd.org](mailto:info@fpcd.org).

Thank you.

Teresa Reed, November 6	Charlie Glover,
Dub Guthrie, November 9	November 15
David Hertenstein,	Rylee Reed, November 16
November 10	Angel Kezar, November 17
Armelia Jimmerson,	Rachelle Benitez,
November 11	November 25
Elyssa Kezar, November 11	



### 2019 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

	Receipts	Expenditures
Sep	\$46,844	\$15,813
Jan - Sep	\$218,344	\$189,933

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
543 EAST FREEMAN STREET  
DUNCANVILLE, TX 75116  
(972) 298-3043 / (972) 298-5312  
[info@fpcd.org](mailto:info@fpcd.org)  
[www.fpcd.org](http://www.fpcd.org)

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Christian Education — 9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service — 10:30 a.m.

### WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Youth Group — 6:00 p.m.